

FNC's *Tucker Carlson Tonight*

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8:00:35 p.m.

6 minutes and 19 seconds

TUCKER CARLSON: Big changes in the tiny hothouse — and it is tiny — of cable news this evening. CNN's top rated anchor, Chris Cuomo, has been pulled off the air, likely for good. You'll probably never see him on camera again. For us here at Fox, it feels like the end of something. Like most Americans, we never actually watched the Chris Cuomo Show — assuming that was its name — but over the years, we saw his clips and they transfixed us. Very often, as a public service but also because, honestly, we could not help ourselves, we brought them to you. How, we wondered, did a man who could barely speak English wind up with a paying job on television? Was it some kind of weird affirmative action program for the illiterate? We never figured it out. But it was remarkable to see it. Sentence after badly mangled sentence, a bouillabaisse of incomprehensible grammar. You couldn't understand any of it. It was a kind of performance art, a communicator wholly unable to communicate. And then there was the weight lifting. Now, there's something wrong with lifting weights or keeping in shape, obviously, but there was always something very wrong with the videos that Chris Cuomo had shot of himself and then put on the internet. Imagine wanting other people to see this.

[CUOMO WORKOUT VIDEOS]

CARLSON: Oh, his poor staff. So, yes, we made fun of Chris Cuomo quite a bit on this show. In fact, pretty relentlessly for the past five years. Chris Cuomo was a buffoon. He was also in the way that buffoons tend to be: incredibly self-righteous and false. Here he is, for example, pretending to emerge from self-imposed quarantine in his basement after recovering from Covid.

CHRIS CUOMO [on 04/20/20]: We had a huge day today in casa Cuomo. Take a look at this. All right. Here it is. The official entry. From the basement. Cleared by CDC, a little sweaty, just worked out. It happens. This is what I have been dreaming of. Literally for weeks. [SCREEN WIPE] This is the dream. Just to be back up here, doing normal things.

CARLSON: Ah, his poor family, he pulled them into it. We learned later the whole thing was fake. Chris Cuomo hadn't quarantined. In fact, he'd been out and about, wandering around Long Island without a mask, yelling at anyone who questioned him. Now, no one else at the time in the media seemed bothered at all by this but it struck us as a big deal. It was too phony. But his bosses didn't care. Before you knew it, Chris Cuomo was back on television barking at you for, yes, not wearing a mask.

CUOMO [on 07/23/20]: Put on the damn mask. If you're in California, if you're in Riverside, where the mask. You want to avoid situations like this where you live, where the mask. [SCREEN WIPE] [on 08/05/20] If we care about doing the right things, I wear a mask for you as much as I wear it for me. I had the disease. [SCREEN WIPE] [on 06/25/20] You need to wear a damn mask.

DON LEMON [on 06/25/20]: Right.

CUOMO [on 06/25/20]: And you have to take care of other people in your community and it's got to be about us cause help's not going to come from above.

CARLSON: Said the guy who screamed at someone else for pointing out that he was not wearing a mask. Now, at the time, that seemed pretty unforgivable to us. In fact, watching the tape, it still does seem unforgivable, but once again, Chris Cuomo's bosses weren't bothered at all. At CNN, there's no penalty for falseness. The only thing you can't do at CNN, the thing that they will never tolerate is displeasing the people in charge. That means not simply Zucker, who runs the company but the billionaires who run our country. If you cross them, you're done, so this morning when we saw *The Atlantic* magazine, we knew it was curtains for Chris Cuomo. *The Atlantic* is owned by Steve Jobs's widow. It functions as a kind of modern social register, a place for the ruling class to talk to itself and *The Atlantic* decided that was deeply displeased Chris Cuomo had dared to help his brother, the former governor of New York when he was accused of sexual harassment. "Chris Cuomo must go," *The Atlantic* declared and then we knew he would. We knew it was over. In the world that Jeff Zucker lives in, *The Atlantic* makes the rules. Cuomo as done. And that's when, for the first time ever and very unexpectedly, we started to feel sorry for Chris Cuomo. Helping his brother is not the worst thing Chris Cuomo ever did. In fact, it may have been the best thing he ever did. Not because Andrew Cuomo was a good person, he certainly wasn't a good person. Andrew Cuomo was loathsome. But Andrew Cuomo was Chris Cuomo's brother and that's what you do with brothers, even the loathsome ones. You help them when they need it. Period. It's called loyalty. At CNN, as at the rest of the media, this is an alien concept. Is there a single person at CNN or any other left-wing network who would risk his job to help his own brother? No. Above all, these people are careerists. Ruthless careerists. [PUTS BRIAN STELTER'S FACE ON-SCREEN] If Jeff Zucker told this guy to denounce his own wife on television, do you think you hesitate before doing it? Oh, of course he wouldn't. Not for a second. So when we tell you that the media are corrupt, we don't just mean they're corrupt politically. It is much deeper than that. They don't acknowledge the most important roles in life: your first obligation is to your family. Your first obligation is not to the state, it's not to a political party, it's not to Jeff Zucker or some creepy billionaire at *The Atlantic* magazine. It's not even to your own career. Your most basic obligation is to the people you are related to. When they need your help, no matter who they are, even if you're the governor of a state, even if they're horrible people, you help them anyway because it's your family. Chris Cuomo may be an idiot and he is, but he understands that. What a thing to be fired for.

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8:10:53 p.m.

3 minutes and 57 seconds

CARLSON: Once again, it's not a defense of Chris Cuomo or his awful, loathsome brother but when your brother's in trouble, you help your brother. Period. Because that's who you are loyal to. Period. So what happens to CNN without Chris Cuomo? Well, here is exclusive footage this show has just obtained of the Dwarf King and his minions — including Don Lemon — putting

Chris Cuomo in a shallow grave. Again, these images are just in to our news department. Of course, no one is going to be hit harder by today's news than Cuomo's best on-air friend Don Lemon, probably will never see moments like this again on national television.

[CUOMO-LEMON 2019 CLIP]

CARLSON: Looking at moments like that, you know longer really feel that sorry for Chris Cuomo, assuming he can get a job or he's saved enough to live, at least you won't have to do that again. Vince Cogliane is a radio host in the city of Washington. We're always happy to have him join us tonight. Vince, what do you make of this?

VINCE COGLIANESE: Well, boy, I'll tell you. I think I figured out why Chris Cuomo lifts so much. It's because he was the only guy carrying that network's ratings.

CARLSON: Good points.

COGLIANESE: As small as those ratings were, the reality is Chris Cuomo was the only draw that network had. I mean, think about this. CNN once had a legendary status as being the type of place —

CARLSON: Yes.

COGLIANESE: — where you could turn to for news. That's gone. That's been gone for many years now. The last big star on the network was Larry King.

CARLSON: Yes.

COGLIANESE: They tried making Anderson Cooper the face of the network. They gave him multiple hours during prime time, that didn't work, so in 2018, they turned to their morning guy, Chris Cuomo, and they said, "please do something," and he was the best that they could come up with. As Jason Whitlock said, the typical American meathead was about the only thing that was actually getting an audience and that's why — what you just played, that Don Lemon clip — that was happening every night. The reason that was happening is because Don Lemon can't get ratings on his own. They had to have 15-minute handoffs with Chris Cuomo just to get people to tune in to something else on the network. This is going to be a big problem for CNN going forward.

CARLSON: It's such a good point. Admittedly, being the highest rated anchor on CNN really is being like the best caterer in Uzbekistan. I mean, it's a — it's a relative measure, but he was number one and they fired the number one guy because *The Atlantic* magazine told him to.

COGLIANESE: Yes.

CARLSON: What does that tell you? Isn't this supposed to be a business? You think of this as a business? I mean — isn't — right — you think of this as a business where, you know, the

outcome is measurable, the guy with the highest ratings, but it didn't matter.

COGLIANESE: Yeah, exactly. And what happens is now — is that this is kind of a — it's kind of a good tell for what, like, our ruling class is interested in. Like, the elites are very insular. They don't care about what the average audience member is interested in. They don't care that the way you probably had watched CNN through the last few years has been you accidentally bumped into it at an airport. It's not about that. It's about what do their friends at *The New York Times* think? The second *The New York Times* —

CARLSON: Right.

COGLIANESE: — and *The Atlantic* turned against Chris Cuomo, Chris Cuomo was thrown off the ship. This is — it's a — these are people who do not care about the average American. They care more about the people they're going to encounter at lunch, probably at a place that I can't afford.

CARLSON: Imagine working for a company in which your boss cares what *The Atlantic* magazine thinks? I mean, that's — it — it's beyond. Imagine knowing someone who cares what —

COGLIANESE: Yes.

CARLSON: — *The Atlantic* magazine thinks or reads *The New York Times* and takes it seriously? Blehhh! Find new friends.

COGLIANESE: Yeah.

CARLSON: Vince Coliganese —

COGLIANESE: Speaking of people you only pump into in an airport. Yeah, thank you.

CARLSON: [LAUGHS] Yeah. It's totally right. Vince Coglianese, great to see you tonight. Thank you.

COGLIANESE: Nice to see you, Tucker.